Volume 26, Edition4 April 2022

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

April is all about Hamfest, so I'll turn my Presidential column over to that event...

It's almost time for VOMARC's Hamfest 2022. On April 23rd we'll be meeting at the First Congregational Church at 252 W Spain Street. The official start time is 8:00 AM but some sellers will show up much earlier than that. Seller slots cost $10.00. Being a buyer or a browser is free! This is a great opportunity to find deals on equipment you need to improve your home station.

Seller spaces

We'll be serving up a hearty breakfast of pancakes, eggs and sausage for $10. Lower cost options are available for a subset of the whole spread. The money raised goes to support club projects such as the construction of our new tower trailer, which will be on display.

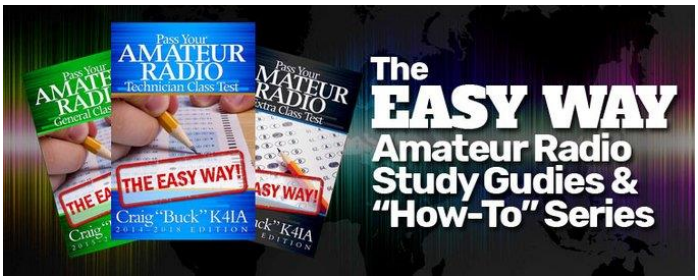
Many of you have already signed up for jobs helping to run Hamfest and for that, we thank you! We could not do this without your help. If you have not yet signed up, please visit the club's Hamfest job sheet and type in your name and callsign (if applicable) to one or more slots. Ask us if you need help doing this.

Local radio station KSVY will be broadcasting from Hamfest again this year from 9:00 AM to Noon. They'd like to interview folks about Ham Radio and your experience with it. it's a great way to help promote the hobby we all love. Please send me a note if you're interested.

Club table

I'm still working out a few details, but we likely will have an ARRL QSL card checker in attendance and he will be checking cards! If you have QSLs that have been gathering dust and need to get them submitted for credit this is a perfect opportunity. Be sure to fill out the DXCC application online, print out the application and card list and bring the cards to be checked. Cards should be in the same order as they are listed on the form in order to speed things up.

We'll once again have door prizes for those who purchase tickets. Like last year, there will be a $100 coupon from Alpha Antenna and several gift certificates from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). New this year are several books from Easy Way Ham Books. Thanks to Buck (K4IA) for these new prizes.



Please be sure to wear your VOMARC name tag if you have one. I hope to see you all there on April 23rd!

NEXT MEETING

Wed, April 20, 2022, 7:30pm

Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Parachute Mobile**

Presenter**: Robert Fenn KC6TYD**

Minutes of the March 16 Meeting

MEMBERS: KA5WSS (Robert), KM6ZUC (Bruce), WD6BOR (Darrel), W1EJ (Ed), KG6QNT (Eileen), W8EWL (John), N7TSQ (Joe), KE6HID (Andrew), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), N7PIB (Sanford), NJ6E (Stan), WB6TMH (Mike), KD6FIL (Dave)

GUEST SPEAKERS: Clint (K6LCS) & Karen Bradford

BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter? Motion Made and Seconded- Minutes Approved

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Eileen, KG6QNT

Please include captions with photos.

ACS LEAD - Moe, KI6JNU – No Report

VE LIAISON - Elizabeth, N6LY

Upcoming sessions: Apr. 23rd (Hamfest), Jul. 30th and Oct. 29th.

Can sign up to 10 at Hamfest. Two have already signed up.

RADIO OFFICER - Mike, WB6TMH

Weekly Net Control

This month - Moe, KI6JNU

Next month - Dave, KD6FIL

TRUSTEE - Darrel, WD6BOR

Tower Trailer update - on its wheels. Need to brush some rust off. Next work party for priming and painting.

Hamfest - Apr. 23rd.

Signup sheet - Will get this to me this weekend.

Mailing labels - still waiting from ARRL

Contact surrounding clubs. Jim used to do this. Ed volunteers to do this. Joe will also mention it on nets he checks into.

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Dave, KD6FIL

Bank balance -?? Should be over $5000. Steel purchase for tower trailer still to be paid.

VICE PRESIDENT - Ed, W1EJ

PRESIDENT - Robert, KA5WSS

Legacy box for VOMARC VHS tapes. *Still* waiting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dues are due You can rejoin now on the VOMARC website.

Amateur Radio books for libraries. Robert will craft up a list and send to Sabine and Stan. Email ARRL to see if they still do a library discount (Robert).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's meeting topic: Parachute Mobile - Rob KC6TYD

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Jack, K6ZMF, has it for now.

MEETING TOPIC - How to Work Amateur Satellites with Your HT - Clint Bradford K6LCS

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY, VOMARC VE Liaison

Time to upgrade or get your Amateur Radio License.

There is still space to test on April 23, during the VOMARC Hamfest.

Testing starts at 10:00 AM. Come early and fuel up with a pancake breakfast and check out the vendors for deals on radio gear.

All spaces must be reserve If interested, email me at n6ly.emm@gmail.com.

First Congregational Church of Sonoma
252 W Spain Street, Sonoma

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- FCC Registration Number
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is $15.00.

COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

- All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above.
- The Session will be limited to 10 candidates.
- All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).
- Candidates must bring their own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

NEW!!

FCC $35 Amateur Application Fee Effective Date will be April 19

This fee is not paid at time of testing, it will be collected by the FCC, before your license is granted. There is no extra fee for upgrades at this time.

If you take and pass multiple tests, during your test session, you will only pay one $35 fee, for the highest level of license earned.

Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new applicants will pay the $15 exam session fee to the ARRL VE team as usual and pay the $35 application fee directly to the FCC by using the CORES FRN Registration system (**CORES - Login**).

When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate. The candidate will have 10 calendar days, from the date of the application file number being issued, to pay. After the fee is paid, and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days.

Hope to see you at a test session soon.

Volunteers Needed for Hamfest

The VOMARC Hamfest will be this coming Saturday, April 23. We still have some important jobs to fill to make this another success.

The most important jobs right now are for the breakfast crew in the kitchen. In addition to Ed, we need five people for each shift, the 7 to

9 am for set up and serving, and the 9 to 11 shift for serving and clean-up. I always like to have this activity well staffed so Ed cna take a short break mid-morning to get out to the swap tables and see if there are any bargains that he just can't resist.

The rest of the job sheet is filling up nicely. Liz has the VE exams well organized, we have a few people for set-up and take-down, and we have two people on the club swap table. We can always use a few more throughout the event.

I plan on having the new antenna trailer at the hamfest for display. We still don't have someone to fill in for Jim K6UUW to operate a club station. If someone would like to do that, plan on bringing what gear you need and we will find some help setting up your station.

We will have KSVY, the local Sonoma Valley radio station, doing a remote operation during the event. This is great public exposure for VOMARC. If you would like to say something about your favorite things about amateur radio, let me know and we will get you on the air.

Go to the Google spreadsheet sign-up list Robert created and fill in those slots, especially in the kitchen!

We'll see you Saturday!

—Submitted by Darrel WD6BOR

Antenna vs Wind

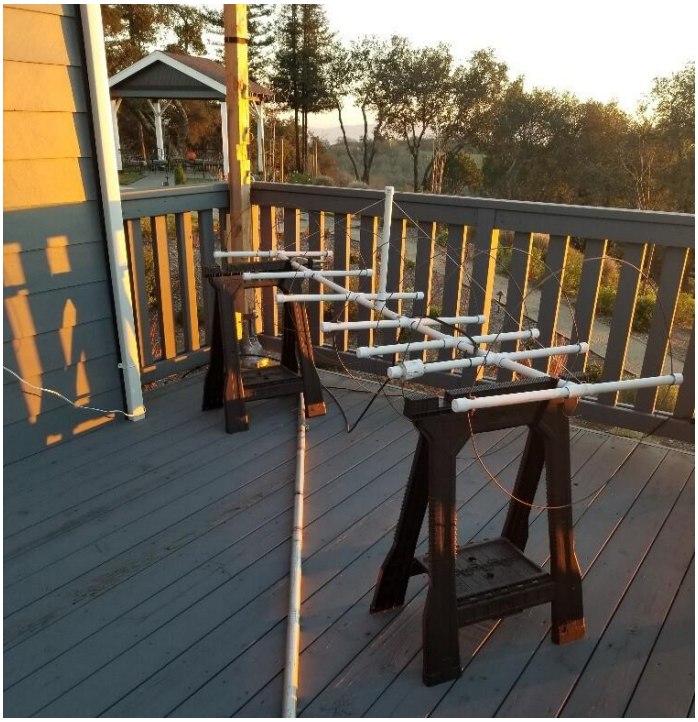
The winds exceeding 60 mph broke it where the vertical pvc pipe connected to the pvc boom. Hanging by the coax, it banged against the mast, deforming the elements. I took it down and straightened the elements. It was temporarily supported on the deck, just to see if I could check into the breakfast net on Tuesday. I was able to, but could not hear the repeater...only most of the folks on input.

Yesterday I got it back up. I inserted a nylon rod inside the vertical pvc where it connects to the boom, hoping to strengthen the weak joint. We shall see.

The winds were from the Northeast, and the strongest since I moved here in 2003. Usually the strong winds during this time of the year are from the south.

—Submitted by John W8EWL

Damaged antenna



Rebuilt antenna

SAG SOTA & FISH ROCK

By ED JACOBSON W1EJ

For the last few years, the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs (SCRA) has supported the Fish Rock bicycle event. The ride is seventy plus miles along some very rough roads and numerous steep hills. The route goes west from Boonville to Point Arena on Mountain View Road then south to Fish Rock Road, thus the ride name, back to Highway 128 for the return to Boonville. In order to cover the remote area, the club uses the Carla linked UHF repeater system. The Geyser Peak and Point Arena repeaters do a great job of covering the course.

I have wanted to work this event in the past; but since I volunteer with the United Way VITA program doing taxes I was always working on the Saturday it took place. This year I cut back on my tax duties, scheduled the day off, and signed up to be a SAG driver for the ride. Why would I be so eager to do this? Besides liking the SAG duty for bike rides, enjoyment of beautiful west Mendocino County, my ulterior motive was the two SOTA summits along the way. The first summit W6/NC-228 (2305) just happens to be at Mariah Vineyard where the first aid station was located along Mountain View Road. The second W6/NC-235 (Gualala Mountain) is a half mile up from the third aid station on Fish Rock Road. Convenient!

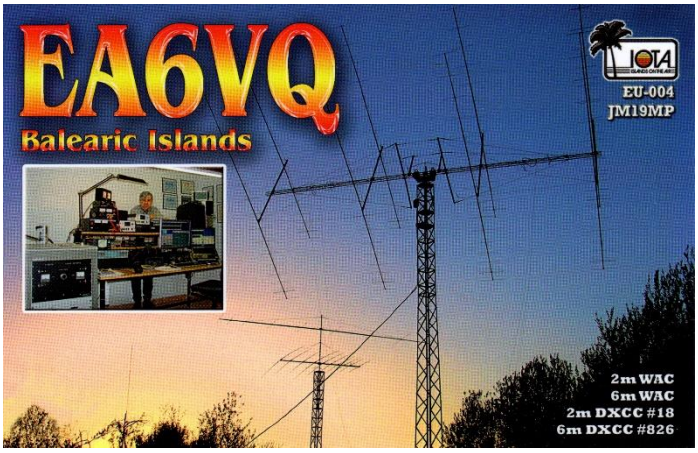
Before starting on the SAG route, I chatted with the Comm Boss, Darryl Paule KI6MSP, and told him my plan to take breaks at those two locations for about thirty minutes to do activations; but, I assured him that SAG duty had priority. He agreed.

At the first summit by the vineyard, I quickly set up my antenna and KX3, made seven contacts and was back on the road in thirty-five minutes. I monitored the control net on my HT just in case I was needed on the course. I continued to the next two aid stations when SAG duty called. A rider had crashed on the east side of Gualala Mountain, where there are some tricky switchbacks on a fast downhill gravel road. I transported the rider and bike to almost the next aid station, where he was picked up by a friend. At this point since Gualala Mountain was twelve miles behind me, I thought it would have to wait for another day. But wait, net control asked me to go back to the previous aid station, perhaps a second chance?

After checking in at the aid station I went back to the Gualala summit, set up my rig and made three HF contacts but four are needed to qualify an activation, then I remembered that a simplex channel was being monitored for the ride, 146.350. A quick call there and two contacts were made so I called it done, a fifteen-minute activation. Further along Fish Rock Road is Maillard Redwoods, maybe a POTA activation next year

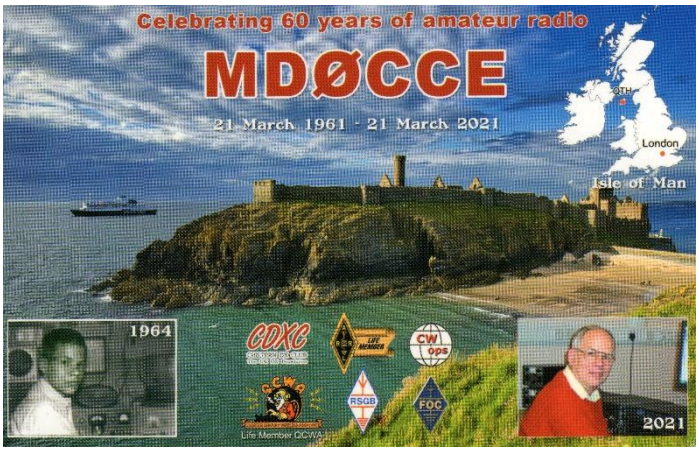
I turned in my unused SAG kit at the brewery and passed on the beer and food, it's a long ride back to Petaluma. The pain of a $90 tank of gas was far outweighed by the fun and satisfaction of a great day with my fellow hams. Carpe diem!

QSL Card Inbox



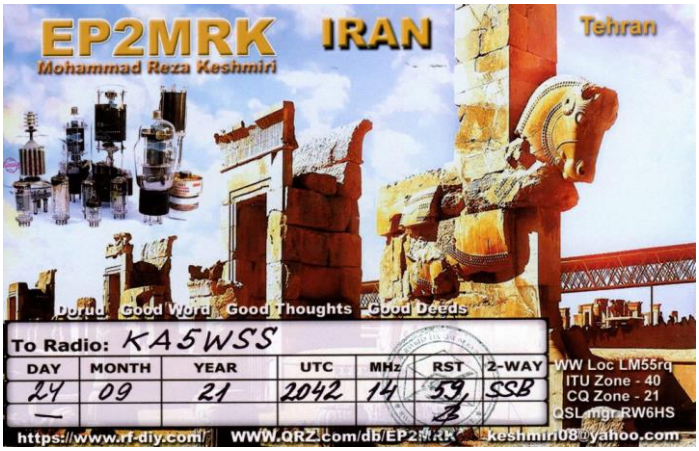
Another All Time New One (ATNO) for me. I worked EA6VQ in the Balearic Islands on both 40M and 30M using FT8. The islands are in the Mediterranean Sea and reside far enough away from Spain to count as a separate DXCC entity.

(Continued on next page)



I got a couple of QSL cards for contacts with the Isle of Man. This one was for QSOs with MD0CCE using FT8 on 15M and 20M. But I also worked Bob with his personal call, MD2C, on 20M SSB last year.

I've worked Cape Verde before, but I finally got my first QSL card. This one is for a contact with D4C during the CQ WPX Contest on 15M using SSB from my home station.



How about another ATNO? This time it was for a contact with Iran. I worked EP2MRK on 20M SSB and sent for the card not too long after the contact.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

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Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS — Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: **http://www.vomarc.org/**

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	WIEJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**